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The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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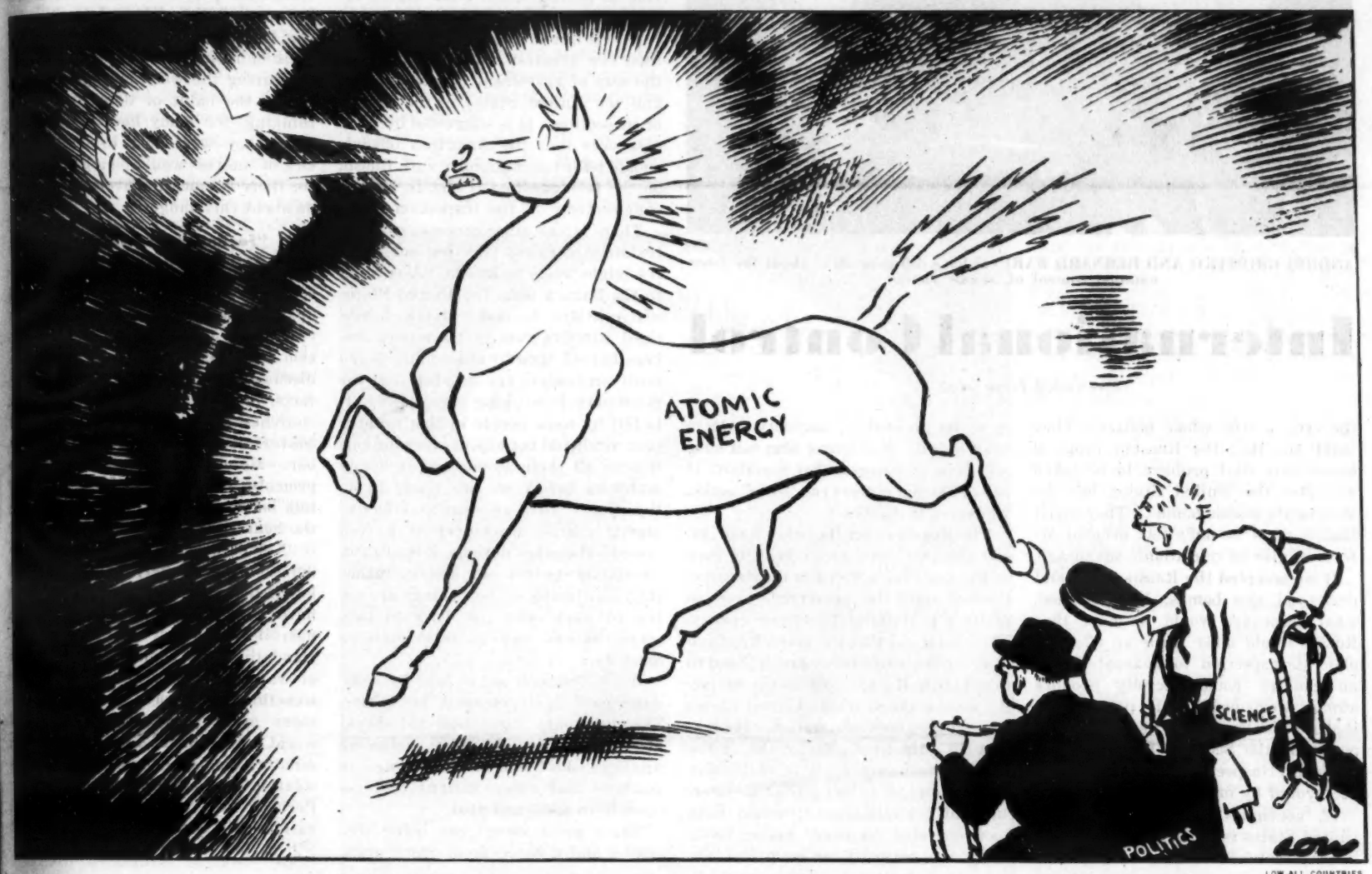


HARNESSING THE ATOM—will man be able to put the saddle and bridle on his new "steed?"

LOW ALL COUNTRIES

United Nations Study Control of Atom

The problem of how to control atomic energy is the greatest single problem confronting the world today. Other issues—the peace treaties, international loans, reconversion, rehabilitation, world trade—are important, and if they are not solved we may again find ourselves at war.

The question of atomic energy, however, is more serious, for if atomic energy is not controlled it threatens us with complete extinction. To help our readers understand the momentous significance of the decisions being made by the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, meeting now in New York, and to help them understand other aspects of this great force that man has set free, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER *is devoting most of this issue to discussions of atomic energy.*

Is there any hope that the United States and Russia can and will agree on an international atomic control plan? That question is being asked in all parts of the world as the 12-man Atomic Energy Commission of the United Nations is carrying on its discussions in New York. If the Soviet and American leaders can resolve their differences on this problem, people in all nations can breathe easier and feel infinitely more secure. But, if agreement cannot be reached, every new crisis among the major powers will cause fear of atomic warfare.

Two main plans are being considered by the UN Atomic Energy Commission. One of these—the American plan—was drawn up by a group headed by Bernard Baruch. The Soviet proposal was submitted to the Commission by Andrei Gromyko, Russia's delegate to the UN Security Council.

The majority of countries appear to feel that the American recommendations are, in the main, sounder than those submitted by Russia. At the same time, however, there is considerable support for certain of Russia's ideas. Let us examine both of these major plans, the arguments for and against them, and some of the compromises recommended. This is Russia's plan:

First of all, it calls upon all nations to enter into a treaty which would outlaw the use of atomic weapons for military purposes. This treaty would make it a "crime against humanity" for any nation to use such weapons.

Within three months after the nations had ratified such a treaty, the Russian proposal provides for the destruction of all atomic weapons. After that step had been taken, the UN Atomic Energy Commission would then consider plans for inspecting plants, mines, and scientific laboratories in the various nations to see whether the treaty was being violated. The Commission could not take any definite steps along this line, however, without the approval of the UN Security Council. The Council cannot act, of course, unless all the five major powers are in agreement. Each of these nations has the "veto" power.

Such, in brief, is the procedure which the Russians would follow in dealing with atomic weapons. The American plan is much more sweeping. It would set up an international Atomic Development Authority which would be given broad powers.

This agency would take over the ownership in every country of all deposits of uranium and thorium—the two chief raw materials for the production of atomic power. It would control and operate all atomic plants and factories. It would have the right to inspect atomic activities in every country. It would have the power to punish any nation or person found trying to use atomic energy illegally.

The Atomic Development Authority, under the American plan, would permit and encourage peacetime uses of atomic energy. Its inspectors, however, would be constantly on the lookout in every country for secret preparations for atomic warfare.

This agency, as in the case of the Russian plan, would be under the supervision of the UN Security Council. The American proposal, however, would change the voting rules of the Council on matters involving atomic energy, so that no one nation could "veto" action in this field.

If this program should be accepted by other nations, the Baruch plan provides that the United States destroy its atomic bombs and its facilities for making them. But until effective international machinery has been set up and has been put into successful operation, it is proposed that we continue to keep our bombs and atomic-power plants.

These are the highlights of the Russian and American plans. On certain points, the two countries are in agreement. They both are working toward the goal of making it a serious crime to produce atomic weapons or to use them in warfare. But there are major differences in the two proposals.

One difference involves the question of inspection power for the international atomic control agency. The American leaders contend that this is

(Concluded on page 2)

ACME

ANDREI GROMYKO AND BERNARD BARUCH have different ideas about the international control of atomic energy

International Control

(Concluded from page 1)

the crux of the whole matter. They point out that the Russian proposal leaves this vital problem to be taken up *after* the United States has destroyed its atomic bombs. They insist that it must be definitely decided *before* we give up our atomic advantage.

If we accepted the Russian plan and destroyed our bombs, it is argued, what assurance would we have that Russia would later favor an effective plan of inspection to guarantee that no country could secretly produce atomic weapons? It is pointed out that Russia, by making use of her veto power on the Security Council, could block any inspection plan that might be favored by most other countries.

If, continues this argument, the United States is willing to permit UN inspectors to check constantly on its mines, factories, and scientific laboratories, then Russia should be willing to do the same thing. Any nation which will not permit such investigation, it is said, must be considered a threat to the rest of the world.

The Russians reply that they are not necessarily against inspection; that as a matter of fact, they realize some type of inspection plan will have to be worked out later on. They insist, however, that the first step is for all nations to show their good faith by pledging themselves in a treaty not to produce atomic weapons. After that has been done, they contend, the United States should show its good faith by destroying its atomic bombs. Then after these two steps have been taken, the Russians say, the subject of inspection should be considered.

If inspection methods are discussed and voted upon *before* the United States stops making its bombs, according to the Russians, then the American leaders will hold the bomb over the heads of the other nations in the effort to force them to agree to its ideas. The Soviet officials insist that they will not yield to this kind of "threat or pressure." The United States, continue the Russians, expects all nations to trust it, but the American leaders refuse to trust other countries, particularly Russia.

Another big issue dividing the Russian and Americans on the question of controlling atomic energy involves the veto power in the UN Security Council. The Americans are taking the position that all atomic questions must be decided by majority vote in the Council. No control plan can have any hope of success, they maintain, if one of the big powers can "veto" action whenever it desires.

The Russians, on the other hand, insist that the veto power held by each of the Big Five nations in the Security Council must be preserved, even in matters pertaining to atomic energy. They point out that the majority of nations in the world today are opposed to Communist Russia, just as the majority were opposed to the United States when it first became a nation. Back at that time, the Russians say, the United States was considered a revolutionary upstart, and, if it had joined an international organization, it would have been outvoted on every major issue. Since the majority of countries are now against Russia, it is contended, that country must hold on to its veto power in the Security Council in order to protect itself, from the "ganging up" tactics of other nations.

It has been suggested that the veto issue might be settled by having the international atomic control agency placed on an independent basis. In other words, it would not be responsible to the Security Council, and the voting rules of the new agency could provide for majority decisions.

Plan Not Acceptable

Russia has strongly indicated, however, that she would not accept such a plan. Soviet leaders point out that the Security Council would be greatly weakened if the most important international problem before the world today were taken out from under its control and placed under another agency. They contend that only the Council should deal with this matter.

Certain American editorial writers and columnists are convinced that the veto question is not nearly so important as the inspection issue. They express their point of view as follows:

"The greatest hope of success in controlling atomic power on an international scale is to work out an effective method of inspection. The urgent need is to eliminate the possibility of secret atomic activity on the part of any nation. Every country must be wide open to UN inspectors.

"If the major nations will agree to this proposition, the veto matter will not be of great importance. For example, suppose that the UN inspectors in the course of their investigations, found that a particular country was violating the atomic rules and was a menace to the rest of the world. Suppose that the accused country was a major power and would try to block action against itself by use of the veto. In such an event, the other nations would certainly not permit the veto rule to prevent them from taking action to safeguard themselves."

If this line of reasoning is accepted, then the greatest stumbling block in the way of agreement between Russia and the United States is the matter of inspection. It is suggested by some observers that the American officials should offer to compromise with Russia on the veto question if she, in return, compromises on the inspection issue.

There is one other concession which certain Americans feel that our country might make to Russia. According to the Baruch plan, the United States will continue to make atomic bombs until effective control machinery has been agreed upon by other nations and until our leaders are satisfied that the machinery is working successfully. It is felt by some people in this country that we should not expect other nations to stop all their atomic research and activities *before* we are ready to do the same. Just as soon as effective atomic control machinery is *agreed upon* by the other nations, it is argued, we should destroy our bombs, rather than waiting to see how things are going to work out: we have to take some chances, just as other nations must do.

While this opinion is held by some Americans it is opposed by others. The opponents argue that we should not give up our advantage in having produced the bomb first until we are positive that other nations will cooperate in a control plan.

These great issues are being discussed and debated from every angle by the 12 members of the UN Atomic Energy Commission. It is of tremendous importance for the American people, individually and collectively, to follow these discussions closely, to study the conflicting proposals with an open mind, and arrive at a decision based on fact and varied opinion.

Albert Einstein, writing in the *New York Times Magazine*, urges the American people to take an active interest in this life-and-death problem, to inform themselves, and to make their opinions felt. He says:

"During the war many persons fell out of the habit of doing their own thinking, for many had to do simply what they were told to do. Today lack of interest would be a great error, for there is much the average man can do about this danger.

"Feelings" Are Important

"This nation held a great debate concerning the menace of the Axis, and again today we need a great chain reaction of awareness and communication. Current proposals should be discussed in the light of the basic facts, in every newspaper, in schools, churches, in town meetings, in private conversations, and neighbor to neighbor. Merely reading about the bomb promotes knowledge in mind, but only talk between men promotes feeling in the heart.

"Not even scientists completely understand atomic energy, for each man's knowledge is incomplete. Few men have ever seen the bomb. But all men if told a few facts can understand that this bomb and the danger of war is a very real thing, and not something far away. It directly concerns every person in the civilized world. We cannot leave it to generals, senators, and diplomats to work out a solution over a period of generations. Perhaps five years from now several nations will have made bombs and it will be too late to avoid disaster."

HERBLOCK IN WASHINGTON POST

"What's the matter? Don't you trust me?"

Proposals for National Control of the Atom

House Studies McMahon Plan for Civilian Atomic Energy Commission

MOST people agree that our best chance of taming the atom for the good of all mankind lies in international control of this new well-spring of power. Yet the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission is not the only group which has been trying to work out a scheme for regulating the production and use of atomic energy. At this writing, Congress is still studying plans for placing the national government in command of this country's atomic resources.

Of course, all members of Congress know that if and when a system of international atomic controls is worked out, it will set the pattern of regulation for the whole world. The national controls Congress is framing now will need drastic revision—possibly they may have to be scrapped altogether.

But this does not lessen the importance of the legislation Congress has been developing. For one thing, there is no guarantee that the great powers can agree on a plan for controlling atomic energy internationally. If they cannot, it will be vitally important for the United States to have a regulation system of its own. Even if the nations of the world do agree to let some international body regulate the atom, it may be some time before the new system goes into operation. Meanwhile, national controls are essential. Furthermore, even within the framework of an international atomic authority, our government will have to make rules for the development and use of atomic energy in the United States.

Congress and the Atom

Up to now, Congress has tackled the atomic problem as a whole, making its plans as though there were to be no international control system. Members of the two houses have framed their bills to take care of both military and civilian uses of atomic power. At the same time, though, they have left loopholes for change in case international agreements outlaw the use of atomic energy as a weapon or place other restrictions on the way individual governments may use it.

The Senate began studying plans for the control of atomic energy soon after the first bomb fell on Hiroshima. The big question dividing the senators in the months of debate and disagreement that followed was whether civilians or military men should have the final say in regulating the use of this tremendous new force.

Before they made up their minds on this question, the senators heard the testimony of more than 100 people, among them the country's foremost military leaders and scientists. They also considered the opinions of nearly 100,000 people who wrote in to urge one policy or another.

A majority of both the scientists and the people who wrote to the Senate Military Affairs Committee wanted civilians to control the nation's atomic resources. They argued that military men would think of atomic energy purely as a weapon and would discourage its use for peaceful purposes. They said, too, that if the military arm of our government held the responsibility for atomic energy, it would become too powerful; eventually it might be in a position to dictate the nation's political course.

The military men and their supporters answered that civilians would not be able to estimate military needs properly in regulating the use of atomic energy. This, they contended, might be fatal if we should ever be drawn into an atomic war. According to their view, military control of atomic energy need not stand in the way of its use for peaceful purposes; it would merely safeguard the nation in case of attack.

But the Senate sided with the scientists. It discarded the May-Johnson bill and others like it which would have given the military arm of the government top authority over the atom. Instead, the senators endorsed the McMahon bill which gives chief power to a five-man commission made up entirely of civilians.

The Big Atomic Test

Under the McMahon bill, these five people, appointed by the President with Senate approval, would have the final say in all matters relating to atomic energy. But the military would not be crowded out completely. A special military liaison committee would advise the commissioners on the atomic power needed for national defense. Should disagreements come up between the military committee and the commission, the Secretaries of War and the Navy and the President himself might be called in to make the final decisions.

To avoid placing too much power in too few hands, the McMahon bill also gives authority to two other atomic energy groups. There would be a nine-man civilian advisory group appointed by the President to make sure the military committee did not exercise too much power in deciding atomic policy. In addition, there would be an 18-member congressional committee—nine representatives from each house—to keep a check on how well the commission did its work and to decide on new atomic policies.

The McMahon bill sets down the basic policy which will guide the commissioners in these words: The development of atomic energy "is to be directed toward improving the public welfare, increasing the standard of living, strengthening free competition among private enterprises, and promoting world peace."

In carrying out this policy, the commission would take over all fissionable materials in the country—that is, materials which can be used to develop atomic power—all sources of these materials, and all equipment for developing them. These materials and installations would be both owned and controlled by the commission. Organizations and individuals might use atomic energy only after they had obtained licenses from the commission.

In issuing licenses, the commission would try to prevent monopolies from cornering the best sources of atomic power. It would also examine very carefully the purposes for which would-be license holders intended to use atomic power. Any project the commissioners considered against the best interests of the country would be ruled out. At the same time, the commissioners would give preference to organizations and individuals planning to develop atomic energy for socially useful ends.

Of course, atomic energy is still primarily a weapon and will remain one until it comes under the control of an international authority. Under the McMahon bill, the commission would develop military uses of atomic energy with the advice of the military liaison committee. At the President's order, it would supervise the production of a stockpile of atomic bombs and other weapons.

Naturally, the commission would not be able to do its work without power to enforce its rulings. The McMahon bill provides for an inspection system and sets heavy penalties for those who try to use atomic power illegally or anti-socially.

Although the Senate was finally unanimous in accepting the McMahon bill, it may not become a law without important changes. In the House, it looks as though the whole battle of civilian control versus military may start over again. In reworking the McMahon bill, the House Military Affairs Committee added an amendment permitting military men to develop atomic weapons. This amendment would mean that the Army could continue to operate the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, bomb plant if the President gave his approval. Under the McMahon bill as passed by the Senate, control of the Oak Ridge plant would pass to the commission and the Army would step down into a mere advisory role.

The Scientists Protest

This amendment brought disapproving comment from many quarters. Many fear that if the House passes the bill in this form, the President may veto it, leaving the nation without a law to regulate the atom. Another threatening possibility is that leading scientists may stop work on government atomic projects if the bill goes through in this form. The Federation of Atomic Scientists has already protested against the amendment, reminding the House committee that the McMahon bill had the support of the War and Navy Departments as well as the President, the Senate, the Cabinet, and "dozens of organizations of thoughtful people."

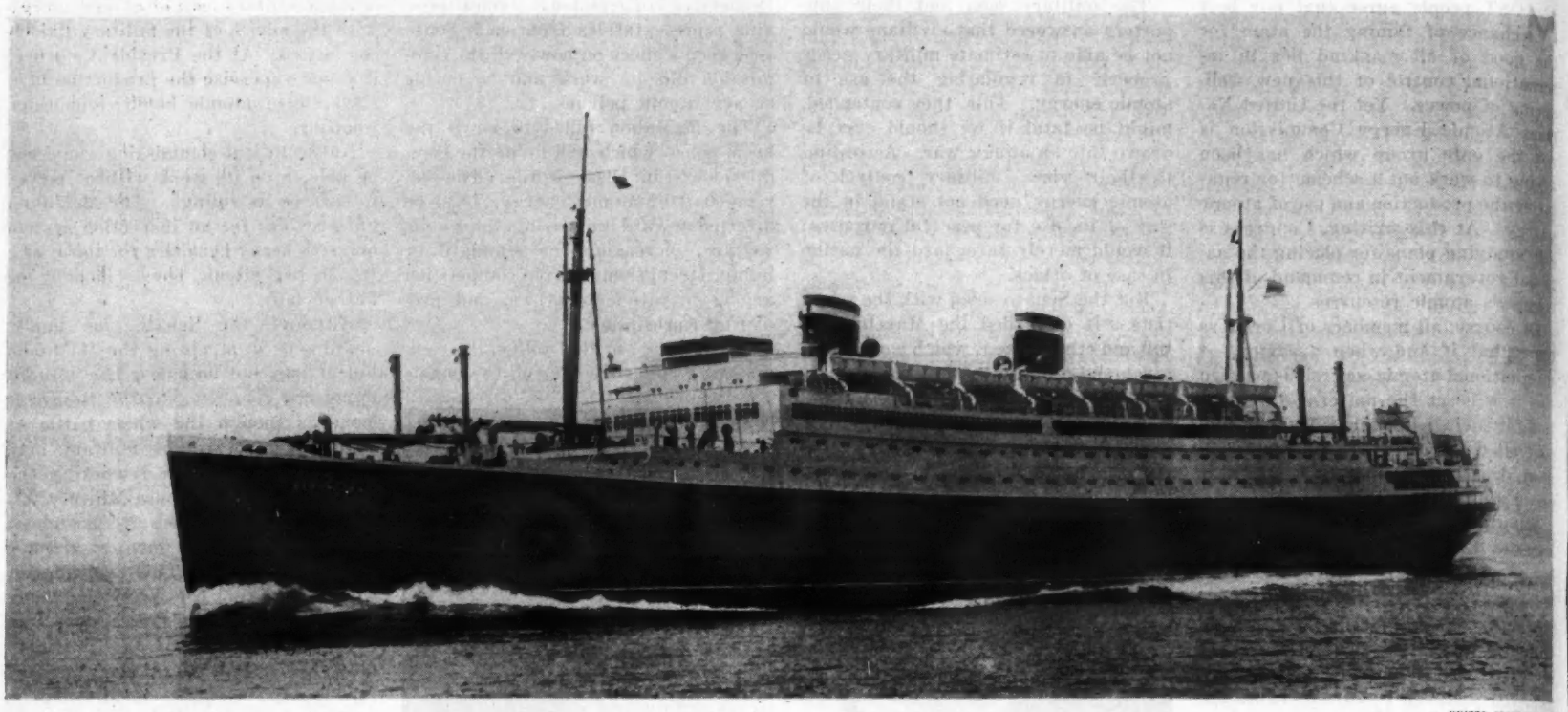
Nor does this amendment represent the only House effort to give the military a larger share of control where the atom is concerned. Another amendment would give at least one post on the commission to a military man. Still another would require a military man to head the commission's subdivision handling military uses of atomic energy.

It is a foregone conclusion that this controversy would end in short order if the United Nations reached an agreement outlawing military uses of atomic power. Until such an agreement is reached, however, the congressional tug-of-war over civilian and military authority in atomic affairs is likely to continue.

Besides amending the McMahon bill to strengthen the Army's position, the House Military Affairs Committee has made few changes in the Senate's proposals for a national system of atom control. Its only other contribution of importance has been a series of new provisions tightening the security regulations agreed upon by the Senate. The House version of the bill gives the Justice Department more power to investigate and prosecute those who might use atomic energy to threaten the national welfare.

Scientists Emphasize Peacetime Uses of Atom

Nuclear Discoveries Promise New Developments in Medicine and Industry



UNITED STATES LINES

TRANSOCEANIC LINERS can probably use atomic energy for power more economically than can other forms of transportation. When a unit generating atomic energy is used, the unit must be enclosed in heavy metallic plates to protect people who are nearby. Such plates would be impractical in automobiles or small airplanes, but could be installed in large ships, or in large locomotives for railway trains.

THE release of atomic energy unrolled a vast panorama of possibilities before the eyes of the world. In this breathtaking picture, bombs and other weapons were mere details. There was talk of miracle machines which could go on endlessly, powered by infinitesimal amounts of atomic energy. People began to dream of atomically run automobiles, planes, factories. In the first excitement, many imagined that all our ways of doing things would change overnight.

It is clear by now that atomic energy cannot revolutionize our peacetime lives immediately. In the long run, the potentialities of this newfound source of power are unlimited; what it will mean tomorrow, next year, or five years from now is another question. Scientists are still trying to sift the possible from the impractical.

They know that atomic energy and its by-products can be used for some peacetime purposes immediately. Some scientists say that the atomic bomb itself may have peacetime uses. Small atomic bombs might replace other explosives in certain kinds of mining, in cutting down mountains for roads, and digging canals.

But probably the field where atomic discoveries will make the biggest contribution in the next few years is medicine. Medical researchers are particularly interested in what they may learn through the use of radioactive carbon in studying the processes of growth, digestion, and disease.

Previously, carbon could be irradiated for brief periods only. Now, however, atomic research has shown scientists how to give it a radioactivity which will last almost indefinitely. They hope to use radioactive carbon in many experiments which were impossible before.

By mixing the carbon with drugs and dyes and feeding it to laboratory animals, they may be able to watch important life processes in motion. As they followed the irradiated substances through various organs, they hope to discover how certain mysterious diseases develop, how growth takes place—perhaps even the secret of the body's eventual aging and decay.

Irradiated metals may find important industrial uses in the near future. Antimony which has been exposed to radiation promises to provide industry with an inexpensive X-Ray for metals. Instead of the costly machines now used to discover flaws in metals, technicians may be able to use simple antimony rods for their testing.

Another possibility is that irradiation may be practical in the canning industry. It has been suggested that foods might be washed, irradiated to kill germs, and canned raw. Agricultural experts think farmers may be able to control certain pests by irradiation. Fields might be sown with short-lived radioactive substances in the winter months when such insects as the corn borer and boll weevil are living in the soil.

But what about large-scale use of atomic energy in industry? Will the atom replace coal, oil, and the other chief sources of power in use now? Eventually, of course, it may. At present, however, a number of thorny problems stand in the way of widespread use of atomic power in industry.

One is the scarcity and expensiveness of uranium, the only ore to yield atomic energy so far. W. L. Laurence, New York *Times* scientific writer, says: "The world's uranium supplies are strictly limited. Even if the United States were to have access to all the world's uranium, which, of course, is unthinkable, the supply would last less than 100 years."

Of course, scientists hope to be able to release the energy from other kinds of atoms eventually. They are now working on some of the commoner elements like hydrogen. Once they succeed, there will be no lack of the raw material for producing atomic energy.

But an even bigger stumbling block is the difficulty of protecting workers in the production of atomic energy. Even a tiny atomic power source gives off rays which are poisonous to human beings. Unless it is heavily shielded in lead or concrete, everyone within a mile of it is in danger of poisoning. At present, scientists see no way to sidestep the need for sheathing all atomic apparatus in this fashion.

This fact rules out the possibility of atomic automobiles and planes at the present time. Indeed, the weight of the necessary shield would make atomic energy impractical for most forms of transportation. The main exception is the large, ocean-going ship. Here weight is not so important, and atomic power may be used in the near future. Admiral Harold G. Bowen, chief of the Navy's Office of Research and Inventions, thinks we may have an atomically powered Navy before long. Atomically powered locomotives are another possibility.

Technically, of course, it would be possible to set up atomic power plants now. Generating electricity far less expensively than the plants we have now, such enterprises could make many advantages available to the entire population. For example, we might have electrically heated homes at very small cost.

When and where the first atomic power plants appear depends largely on what policy the government adopts. Nevertheless, it is likely that the atom will not at first compete with power generators already in existence. It has been predicted that atomic power plants will be used first in out-of-the-way places where coal or water-power generators cannot be installed.

One atomic scientist has suggested an aviation station at the North Pole. It would be all but impossible to bring regular fuel supplies to this remote part of the world. Atomic energy could keep the station lighted, heated, and supplied with all necessary power on very little uranium. The quantities needed for the job could be freighted in by plane very easily.

Of course, our ideas of what atomic energy can and cannot do are still in their infancy. But as scientists experiment with it and work with it, new discoveries are sure to open fresh vistas of progress for us.

GALLOWAY

MEDICINE is the field in which the greatest immediate benefits from atomic energy are expected

WASHINGTON POST STAFF PHOTO
BARNET NOVER

HARRIS & EWING
WALTER LIPPMANN

The Road to Understanding

By Walter E. Myer

WE hear a great deal about the need for international understanding as a necessary basis for peace and security. The need is so apparent that we are likely sometimes to be impatient when it is not readily achieved, when nations continue to misunderstand each other's motives and policies, and to act in the spirit of suspicion rather than confidence. The difficulty of obtaining an understanding among nations is more easily comprehended when we observe how hard it is for the leaders of thought within any one nation to come to agreement about the meaning of facts, issues and policies. An illustration of this problem is afforded by the comments on atomic energy control made recently by two leading columists. These comments appeared on the same day in many of America's daily newspapers.

Walter E. Myer

The subject was the two plans for atomic control: the one presented for the United States by Bernard Baruch, and the other for Russia by Mr. Gromyko. The columnists, Walter Lippmann and Barnet Nover, had before them the same set of facts; yet their interpretations of these facts were totally different, and were in direct contradiction of each other.

Mr. Lippmann said, among other things, "The more we examine the Baruch and Gromyko statements, the more we have reason to feel, I believe, that this is as promising a start as we have any right to expect. That is, in fact, an understatement. For the two plans open many doors. They shut no doors. And that makes all the room a statesman could ask at the beginning of a great enterprise for negotiation, persuasion, explanation, invention and accommodation." Mr. Lippmann said further, "For my own part, I do not believe that the Russians have really understood the problem of atomic energy well enough to realize how much they are conceding to us and how little they are getting for themselves."

Mr. Nover, with the same proposals before him, says, "In substance and spirit, the two plans are about as far apart as the poles. This may be because, while we put all our cards face up on the table, the Russians, being horse traders from away back, are asking for more than they hope to get while offering far less than they are really prepared to give. . . . Yet as matters stand now, the gulf between the Russian and American view in this all-important matter of atomic energy control is so wide and deep as to make it dubious whether any reasonable compromise between the two plans is possible. . . . The Russian plan cannot for one moment be seriously considered. It asks for everything and offers nothing."

When two well-informed Americans are so far apart in their interpretation of the meaning of these proposals, it is not strange that the statesmen of different nations, speaking different languages, should have difficulty in arriving at agreement and common understanding. This does not mean, of course, that we must accept defeat and give up the attempt at understanding. It means that we must pursue the objectives with patience, tolerance, and unremitting effort. Without this effort understanding is impossible.

If the ordinary citizen is brought to realize how hard it is to reach an understanding of fundamental issues, he will at least have taken a step in preparation for the task before him. If the job is exceedingly difficult, the mental labor which goes into it must be correspondingly thoroughgoing. One's best chance to arrive at wisdom with respect to current issues is to examine facts carefully, to study as many as possible of the opinions which are set forth and then, finally, to make up his mind in the light of all available evidence. That is what citizens must do and it is what nations must do, if we are to find our way to peace, confidence and good will, either in our national life or in the world at large.

We cannot expect that there will ever be full agreement with respect to important issues, but well-informed citizens will make fewer and less serious mistakes than the ill-informed. We must hold to that faith.

Weekly Study Guide

The Atom—International Control

1. Why is it so important that international agreement on the control of atomic energy be reached?

2. Briefly give the main points in the program suggested by the United States for international control.

3. Give the main points in the Russian program.

4. What is the principal goal of both plans?

5. How do the two plans differ on making arrangements for inspection of nations to determine whether or not any nation is violating its agreements concerning atomic energy?

6. What does Russia believe the United States should do before the subject of international inspection is discussed?

7. How does the plan of the Russians and that of the United States differ in regard to the use of the "veto" on questions regarding atomic energy?

8. What third proposal has been made for establishing an international control agency? Does this seem likely to be accepted?

9. What position is taken by some writers in regard to the relative importance of the "inspection" and the "veto"?

Discussion

1. In the interest of international peace, do you feel that the nations should sacrifice some of their "sovereignty," that is, let an international group come in and inspect their atomic power plants, and let such a group rule on their use of the energy? Or do you feel that the dangers of atomic warfare have been exaggerated and that each nation should determine for itself whether to produce atomic energy and how it should use the energy?

2. Do you think that the United States should destroy the atomic bombs it now has and stop making more bombs, or do you think that, until effective international control is set up, we should not give up the "advantage" we now have?

Domestic Control

1. On what grounds is military control of atomic energy in the United States generally opposed?

2. What arguments have been raised in support of military control of atomic energy?

3. Do most atomic scientists want to see military men or civilians regulate the use of atomic energy?

4. Describe briefly the three atomic control groups provided for by the McMahon bill.

5. According to the McMahon bill, who would own and control the nation's supplies of uranium and other fissionable materials?

6. Under the McMahon bill, what policies would guide the atomic energy commissioners in deciding who should be given licenses to use atomic power?

7. What amendments has the House added to the McMahon bill?

Discussion

1. How much authority do you think the Army should have in deciding the nation's atomic policies? Give the reasons for your opinion.

2. Since the development and use of atomic power will be extremely expensive for a time at least, it is unlikely that small businessmen will be able to take much part in it if they operate as individuals. By pooling their resources in cooperatives, however, they might be able to finance atomic enterprises. Do you think the government should encourage such groups to use atomic energy, or do you think it should rely on the great corporations to play the largest role in its development?

Miscellaneous

1. What has been the chief issue over which the Big Four Foreign ministers, meeting in Paris to discuss peace treaties, have disagreed?

2. Why was India's action in bringing her dispute with South Africa to the General Assembly of the UN unusual?

3. How has Switzerland recently shown her determination to remain completely neutral?

4. What steps have been taken to "popularize" the Army?

5. What three episodes in the European campaign of World War II does General Eisenhower feel assured the Allies of final victory?

6. What are the major difficulties connected with using atomic energy on a large scale for peacetime purposes?

7. How are irradiated materials expected to be used in medical research?

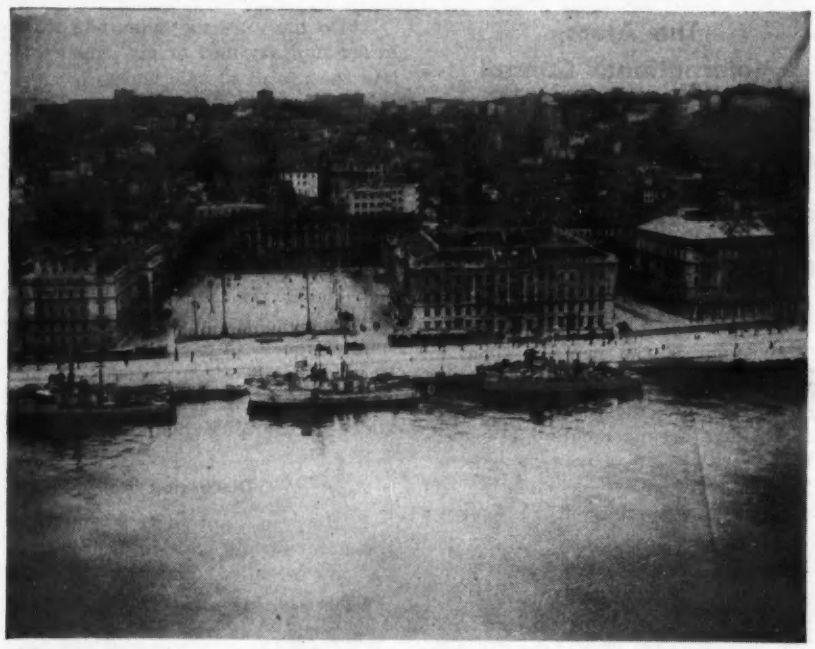
8. Why is it unlikely that we will soon have atomic planes and automobiles?

AMERICANS FOUGHT AND DIED TO ACHIEVE VICTORY IN WAR —
-BUT MANY ARE TOO LAZY TO FIGHT FOR LASTING PEACE
HO-HUM-THIS BORES ME
PEACE PROBLEMS
IOU

SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

"WHY IS IT?" asks the cartoonist. Are your friends, too, less interested in helping solve the problems of peace than they were in winning the fighting war?

The Story of the Week



ACME

BRITISH WARSHIPS in the harbor at Trieste. They have been joined by several American naval vessels

Volunteer Army?

July and August will test the contentions of those who say an adequate Army can be secured by volunteers against the contentions of those who say such an Army cannot be secured in this way. As Congress was recently voting an extension of the draft until March 31, 1947, the War Department announced a draft holiday for two months. In making the announcement, Secretary of War Patterson said that the Department wanted a volunteer Army and would turn to the draft "only as a last resort."

At the same time two steps were taken to make Army life more attractive. Congress passed a bill increasing the pay for the various Army ranks—buck privates received a 50 per cent increase in base pay, and generals a 10 per cent increase.

The War Department also announced that it is abolishing some of the practices which led to the Army's so-called caste system. Enlisted men will no longer have to salute officers except when on Army posts. Officers and men will wear the same uniform. Officers will be selected according to more rigid standards than have applied in the past, and will be more thoroughly trained. These and other changes have been made in accordance with the suggestions of the Doolittle board (See THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for June 17, page 1).

If by the end of August volunteers do not provide an Army capable of carrying out our international obligations, the War Department will have to turn to the draft. According to the draft law recently passed by Congress, draftees must come from the 19- to 45-year-old age group.

Ships at Trieste

Trieste, at the time this note was written, continued to be an explosive issue (see accompanying note on "Peace Conference"). This little city at the head of the Adriatic Sea now belongs to Italy, and the Italians are determined to keep it. The Yugoslavians, who claim the city because the surrounding area is made up largely of Yugoslavs, are just as determined to gain control of Trieste. Thus far the Allies have not been able to agree on who should have the city and the surrounding area, and there is a constant threat of outright warfare over it.

This threat has been present ever since the end of fighting in Europe last summer. It has often been reported that Yugoslavian soldiers are poised ready to swoop in and take Trieste whenever the signal is given. Supposedly that signal would come from Russia, for Russia supports the Yugoslavian claim to Trieste. Some hope for avoiding warfare is seen in the fact that the threats of armed disturbance have not yet materialized.

Recently several vessels of our Navy were ordered into the harbor at Trieste, where British ships were already stationed. This move was interpreted as a "show of strength" to discourage the Yugoslavians from attempting any armed entry into the city. It was also interpreted as indicating to Russia that we will insist upon Trieste's remaining as it is until Allied agreement on the subject is reached.

A New Approach

India recently tried a new approach to finding a solution for an international dispute. She presented a complaint against the government of South Africa to the General Assembly of the United Nations instead of taking it before the Security Council. In all previous cases—Poland's complaint against Franco and Iran's dispute with Russia among them—the issue was brought before the Council.

Specifically India accused the South African government of discriminating against Indians who live there. More than 50 years ago India and South Africa agreed that certain Indians might go as laborers to provinces of lower Africa. According to the agreement the Indians were to have equal rights with the rest of the population. Now India claims that the Indians have not been well treated. They cannot vote; they cannot own certain property; and they are discriminated against in the jobs they may hold. All of this, India says, "is likely to impair friendly relations between India and South Africa."

The Charter of the United Nations permits member nations to bring disputes before the General Assembly when they are deemed "likely to impair . . . friendly relations between nations." It is not known what action the Assembly may take, for the problem cannot be discussed until the Assembly meets in September. Some observers, however, say this is not a dispute for the Assembly, but is an internal quarrel between the South African government and her Indian nationals.

Peace Conference

The Big Four Foreign Ministers, meeting in Paris for the second time to plan peace treaties, have moved slowly toward concrete accomplishment. Sharp controversy has cropped up, but the ministers have shown some willingness to compromise their differences, and they have shown a realization that the job of making peace with the defeated nations cannot be postponed indefinitely.

The great stumbling block has been Trieste (see accompanying note on "Ships at Trieste"). France has suggested putting the disputed city under international control for 10 years before coming to a final decision as to whether Italy or Yugoslavia should have it. Russia at first refused to accept the suggestion, but as this paper goes to press there are indications that Russia will make some concessions.

While the Foreign Ministers may be able to agree on what to do with Trieste, they may fail to agree on how navigation of the Danube River should be controlled. This has been another stumbling block.

Ever since the beginning of this second Paris meeting, Secretary Byrnes has insisted that if the Big Four cannot solve certain problems, these problems should be submitted to a conference of all Allied nations involved in the European treaties. Russia, on the other hand, has wanted the Big Four to agree on the major points before the larger conference is called.

As this is written, it seems improbable that the Big Four can succeed in ironing out all of their differences. Many observers believe that the kind of meeting favored by the United States will be held this summer.

ACME

THE BIG FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS in session, with their aides and deputies

War Crimes Trials

Next week Justice Robert Jackson is scheduled to complete his work at the trials of German war criminals—

ACME

YOUNG TONY BAKER demonstrates his grip on the ball for one of the Washington, D. C., Senators. Tony has amazed Big League players with his pitching form and his speed.

trials popular with most citizens of the Allied nations, but severely criticized by some lawyers.

The trials were called on the grounds that Nazi leaders had committed "crimes against humanity" in starting a war of aggression, and in persecuting Jews and prisoners of war. The same principles govern the trials of Japanese leaders in the Far East.

Many lawyers in this country have said that war has always been looked upon by international law as a legal act. They argue further that in trying the German and Japanese war leaders as criminals we are violating one of the fundamental rules of our own law—namely, that no person can be tried for an act which was legal at the time it was done.

Justice Jackson, and other prosecutors at the trials, have disregarded these arguments. They have gone ahead in such a way as, first, to show that international "crime" does not pay; and, second, to establish a code of principles to be used in dealing with leaders of aggressor nations in the future.

Meanwhile we can glance back to see whether war did pay for the leaders of the defeated nations. Six, including Hitler and Prince Konoye (premier of Japan while she prepared for war), have committed suicide. One, Benito Mussolini, was the victim of mob violence. Eleven or more—including Count Ciano of Italy and Josef Kramer, commander of the Belsen concentration camp—have been executed. As the trials in Germany and the Far East continue, other de-

feated war leaders will pay the price the Allies have set for those who wage aggressive war.

Prospecting, Modern Style

Science, which used to laugh at the use of a "divining rod" to locate deposits of minerals or oil, has now developed such a rod for itself. When the early prospectors went West, they depended a great deal on the "diviner" with his forked stick and his supernatural power. By walking in a semi-hypnotized state over land where minerals were thought to be, the diviner could spot the minerals when one fork of his stick dipped down. Science laughed, but the diviner was often right.

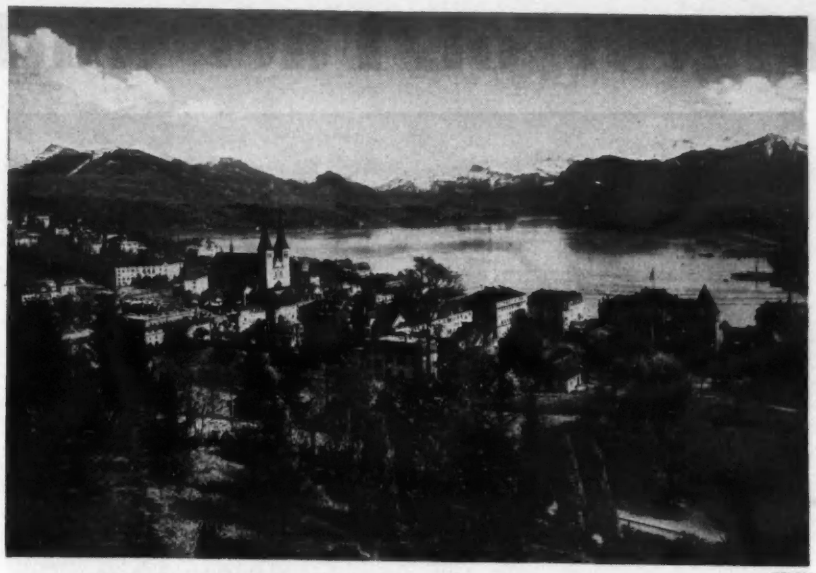
The divining rod which science has made is called the "aerial doodlebug." It is a magnetic detector, so sensitive to metal that, when it is trailed from an airplane, it records the presence of minerals in the earth beneath it. When attached to an aerial camera, the doodlebug causes underground deposits to show up on aerial photographs.

The new device has already been used to explore areas totalling 40,000 square miles in this country and in Alaska. Important iron deposits in the Adirondack Mountains were found by the aerial "diviners" during the war; and with their magic rod, the aerial diviners also located enemy submarines under the surface of the ocean. Plans are now being made to chart the underseas mineral wealth which lies along our coasts by use of the doodlebug.

Swiss Neutrality

Tiny Switzerland, which for years has maintained strict neutrality on a continent where conflict is the rule, has rebuffed the United Nations rather than risk violation of her neutrality. Switzerland has told the UN that neither the Security Council nor its military staff may meet in Geneva in the League of Nations' buildings. To allow such meetings, Switzerland fears, might be interpreted as an "unfriendly act" by some powers.

The Swiss position in Europe has been the envy of troubled Europe. Switzerland is perhaps the most international of all European countries. Her population is made up principally of French, Germans, and Italians, who speak their own languages. The Swiss depend upon foreign trade for a livelihood. They have invested heavily in the industries of other lands, and foreigners have large investments in Switzerland. Yet with all this, the Swiss have a long record of never taking sides in international quarrels.



WEHRLI

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND. The Swiss prefer to remain neutral

Switzerland belonged to the League, but was not an active member. Since the end of World War II, she has not applied for membership in UN, because she wants to stay completely neutral.

There is debate as to whether or not Switzerland can forbid UN to use the League's buildings, since they are UN's property. It is doubtful, however, that UN would go in over the Swiss protest.

New Movie—*Smoky*

Will James authored a novel in 1926 so popular that it went through 26 editions and was translated in almost every language. Now *Smoky* appears in a technicolor version to bring the popular book to movie-goers.

Smoky is the story of a horse trained and loved by a hard-hitting cowpuncher, played by Fred MacMurray. Anne Baxter and Burl Ives, famed ballad singer, are other stars in the show.

Jack Lindell, who operates Twentieth Century-Fox's Dramatic Academy for Horses, credits Smoky with having "learned faster than any horse I've ever trained."

Robert Bassler and Louis King, the team that brought *Flicka* to the screen, directed the picture.

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX

POPULAR BOOK—POPULAR MOVIE. *Smoky* includes Fred MacMurray and Burl Ives in its cast

A Meat Strike?

"Not One Meat Ball"—this phrase, used by a Washington newspaper to describe the meat situation in the Capital recently, may be applied to the whole nation, for there is now a shortage of meat which threatens to last for quite some time. Apparently the shortage arises from the fact that cattle raisers, hoping that prices will rise in the near future, have not been taking their cattle to market.

Some observers have compared the cattle raisers' action to a strike on the part of labor. Just as the workingman stops working when he wants higher wages, so the cattle raisers have stopped working because they feel they can increase their earnings by holding up production. A similar "strike" has taken place in the clothing industry, where goods are reported to have been held off the market in the hope that prices will rise. Labor's strikes, these observers say, are strongly criticized across the nation, yet these so-called "business strikes" are seldom recognized as such.

The entire issue underlines the "class warfare" which has prevailed in our country since the end of the international war. Individual groups have been battling to increase their share of national production without regard for the overall picture. The question is being increasingly asked as to whether we can become effective citizens of "One World" when we have not yet become citizens of one nation.

Eisenhower Reports

Military experts and political leaders will ponder for a long time to come over the details and significance of the report made recently by General Dwight Eisenhower on the Allied invasion of Europe. The document, a military man's report to his superiors (in this case to authorities of the British and American governments), has been released to the public. The story of the epic military campaign is told in simple, direct language, but there is intense drama in the story itself.

Eisenhower recounts the way in which the strategy for the campaign was planned. He describes the bitter battles which were fought as the Allies advanced until they finally reached Berlin. He also tells of the many political compromises which had to be made before the military plans could be carried out.

The three episodes which assured Allied victory, Eisenhower says, were (1) the battle of Normandy, where we gained a foothold on the continent; (2) the battle of the Falaise pocket, where we were assured of victory in France; and (3) the battles west of the Rhine, where the Germans let us choose the scene for fighting—which is always a mistake for a soldier.

The report is available for $1 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Just ask for "The Eisenhower Report."

SMILES

"I see you hurt your head. Did you have an X-ray taken?"
"Yep."
"What did it show?"
"Nothing."
"Oh, well, the truth will out."

★ ★ ★

"But I wanted two coats put on the house," the housewife told the painter. "You've only painted it once."

"Well, it's like this. I mixed the first coat with paint for the second and put both coats on at the same time. Speed's my motto."

CORKA IN PM

"I won't say it's good. It's merely no worse than other lemonade made under similar circumstances."

Radio fan: "How in the world do you think up all those jokes?"

Radio comedian: "Oh, I just sit down and laugh and then think backwards."

★ ★ ★

A man bought a parrot and was busily trying to teach it to talk. He kept repeating "Hello," hoping that the parrot would speak. Finally he gave up hope and was about to walk away when the parrot chattered, "Sorry, the line's busy."

★ ★ ★

"I don't care how many men you employ. You can't hold a candle to what I make."

"What *do* you make?"

"Ammunition."

★ ★ ★

"I've been getting a lot of threatening letters in the mail lately. Isn't that against the law?"

"Certainly! That is considered a very serious offense. Have you any idea who is doing it?"

"Yes, the Gimmick Furniture Company."

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Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Eye to the Future," *Science Illustrated.*

Peering one billion light years into space is the next goal of astronomers. Completion of the giant 200-inch reflecting telescope on Mt. Palomar in California may make that possible.

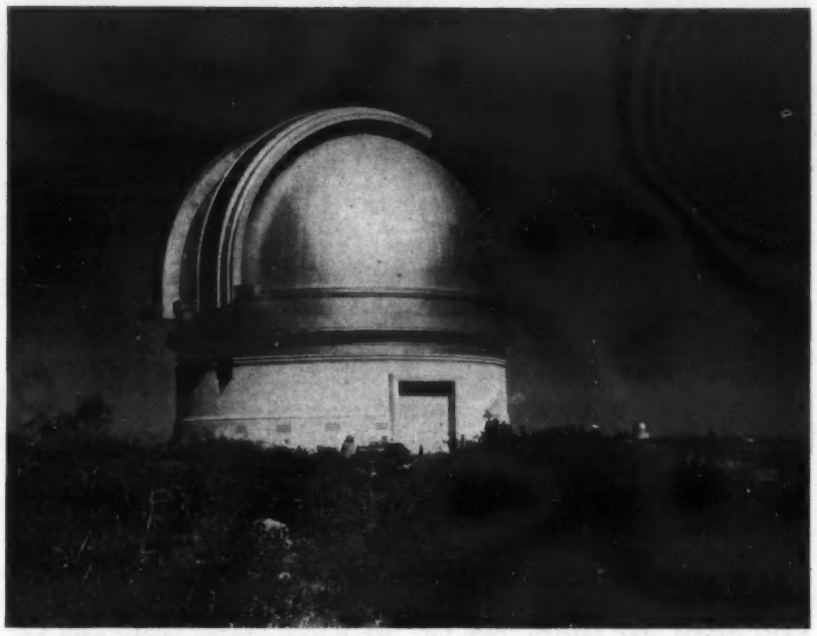
Work on "the big eye" was started in 1929. During the war it was practically stopped, but now it is underway again, and experts think the telescope will be completed by the summer or fall of 1947.

The huge reflecting telescope will have one million times the power of the human eye. With it scientists hope to gather more information about the galaxies—the other solar systems out in space. Perhaps they can learn whether or not the universe is expanding at the rate of 20,000 miles a second, as some astronomers have said it is. Maybe the new mirror will give them clues about the origin of the earth or how long we may expect life to continue here.

Fourteen and a half tons of glass and aluminum make up the mirror. The mounting for the telescope tube, which carries the light rays from the mirror to the eye or to a photographic plate, alone weighs 500 tons. Work on all parts of the telescope must be almost perfect, or the entire apparatus will be useless. For instance, the mirror cannot vary from its designed shape more than one or two one-millionths of an inch, and the tube must hold its shape to within one sixteenth of an inch.

"Showroom from the Clouds," by Mark Townley, *Pan American.*

In the Latin American countries a magic carpet is making its first appearance. It is the "Flying Showroom," a new plane which Trans Caribbean Air Cargo Products, Inc., is putting into the air. The plane carries samples of North American products right to the doorstep of department stores and specialty shops in South America. Heretofore each buyer who wanted to see North American goods at first hand had to make the long trip to the United States.



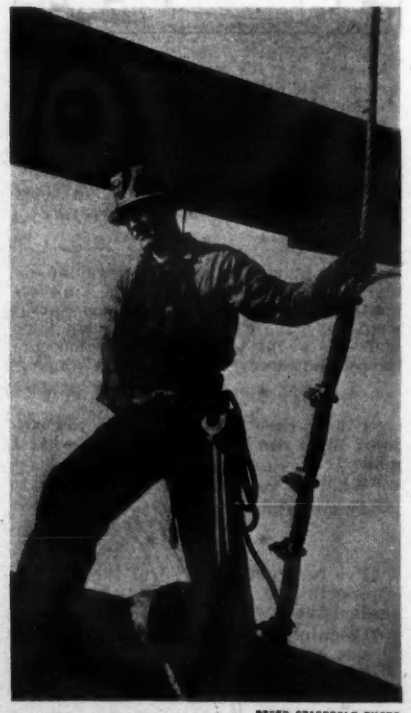
ACME

MOUNT PALOMAR will soon have a new telescope that will look one billion light years out into space

The "Showroom" consists of 28 specially designed display cases. On its initial run, it carried samples of a great variety of merchandise, including jewelry, gloves, hosiery, metal gadgets, plastic products, pipes, perfume, and a full line of cosmetics.

"Traveling" salesmen who speak Spanish and Portuguese explain exhibits and show pictures of other products to the Latin American buyers. Trans Caribbean Air Cargo Products, Inc., acts as sales agent and distributor for the manufacturers exhibiting on the "Flying Showroom." This is the first time that an airline has ever been more than a carrier, and it opens a new field in the business of aviation.

The idea for this business originated with the president of Trans Caribbean. It has been enthusiastically received by North American manufacturers seeking buyers in South America. It may greatly increase air cargo transportation in the Western Hemisphere and speed inter-American trade.



PETER STACKPOLE PHOTO

THIS STEELWORKER is typical of the workers who will attend the institutes conducted by Pennsylvania State College and Antioch College.

"Russia Reforms—To Our Chagrin," by Joseph C. Harsch, *Christian Science Monitor.*

If any high Russian official tries to decide how to please the Western world, he is likely to be slightly perplexed.

At the time of the Potsdam conference last year we were quite disturbed because the Russians were stripping factories from the eastern zone of Germany. We were afraid this mass looting would turn Germany into a poorhouse of unemployed men. Now we worry because the Russians are allowing too many German factories to operate in their zone.

After our moral indignation over Russian looting, it is a trifle upsetting to discover that American officers made off with a fabulous quantity of crown jewels. Later we learned that a more extensive treasure hoard in the East Indies stuck to the fingers of a few British and Dutch officers. There is also the matter of art treasures from the Kaiser Frederick Museum of Berlin "in safe keeping" in the vaults of the National Art Gallery in Washington. Of course we plan to return the art treasures, but their presence here is embarrassing.

It would seem that the Russians have not found the golden mean in their behavior. But the fact remains that some Western press criticisms must seem contradictory and unjustified to the Russians.

"Steelworker School," by Edward J. Lally, *Wall Street Journal.*

Five hundred union leaders will go to college for a week this summer to learn how to get along with the boss. Antioch College in Ohio, and Pennsylvania State College will offer five labor institutes for steelworkers.

If the academic slant proves helpful, Penn State may make training available winter and summer through its extension services. The one-week programs this summer are "sample courses" to whet the appetites of steelworkers for more. The union in its long-range educational program also plans to set up week-end courses for members, at which representatives of government, labor, and management will speak.

Most "students" in the college classes will be local union officials and district directors, because their jobs include the handling of relationships between worker and employer. A few union members who are not officers will also take part. Women will attend, too. While industry will not be represented on the teaching staffs at the Penn State or Antioch institutes, it will have "observers" on hand.

The program is the start of an ambitious plan mapped by the CIO's United Steelworkers of America to develop sounder leadership among its lesser officials and to train them in the responsibilities of the labor movement.

"Election, Mexican Style," *This Week.*

This month Mexico will elect a new president for a six-year term. Miguel Aleman is almost certain to win the election, but he is staging a super-publicity campaign as if every vote counted.

Huge letters on mountain-tops display his name. Mexican women carry shopping bags printed with his picture. Even children, non-voters, play with drums and dolls which are his gifts.

Mexico usually wants a military president. A steady parade of generals has filled the high office most of the time for the past hundred years. Aleman is a civilian lawyer, but he is the son of a Mexican Army hero. He has a good record in government service. During the war he helped track Nazi rings and mustered public opinion for a declaration of war against the Axis. On many projects he has cooperated with the United States.

The Mexican government favors Aleman and backs his party, the Mexican Revolutionary Party. The only other candidate who is offering Aleman any competition is Ezequiel Padilla, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs. But Padilla is said to be too friendly with the United States.

This election is already very one-sided. Aleman, however, conducts an exciting campaign which pleases the Mexican people.

"New Weapons for the Fire Front," by A. G. Hall, *American Forests.*

Weapons designed for war will soon be used to combat forest fires. New inventions promise more rapid control of flames and may do much to remove fire-fighting from its classification as a hard, dirty job.

Planes will be used extensively. With a loudspeaker device which the Army used to direct ground operations from the air, the forest ranger can fly over the countryside warning brush burners and picnickers of fire danger and directing ground crews.

SIGNAL CORPS

THE WALKIE TALKIE of the war may soon be fighting fires

Air photography will permit firemen to work with greater accuracy. Water bombs to extinguish fires and explosive bombs which scatter earth over the blaze may be dropped from planes. The helicopter may be used to carry men and equipment to areas without large landing space.

An artificial fog blanket, used by the Navy for camouflage purposes, will smother fire by lowering its temperature and cutting off its oxygen supply. By atomizing water, the fog nozzles put each drop to its greatest use, an important consideration when water must be carried long distances.

A new product named "goop" makes damp brush burn. This will help foresters clear out brush which would be a fire threat when dried. By applying "goop" in rainy weather to material they wish to burn, foresters can rid areas of this menace without danger of starting a real fire.

Most fire-fighters will not scrap present methods until the more adventurous chiefs prove the efficiency of newer developments. But 1946 is certain to see new fire-fighting weapons.